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SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR. SIDNEY.STRICKLAND@STRICKLANDPLLC.COM

January 5, 2007

Honorable Vernon A. Williams Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 434X); BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Fergus County, MT

Dear Secretary Williams:

On November 25, 2005, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—<u>Exempt Abandonments</u> to abandon a line of railroad between milepost 9.50 near Moore, MT, and milepost 28.35 near Lewistown, MT, the 1.30-mile Berg Lumber Spur (milepost 0.00 – milepost 1.30), and the Heath Spur (milepost 0.00 – milepost 1.10), a total distance of 21.25 miles in Fergus County, MT. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 59457 and 59464.

By decision served December 14, 2005, the STB granted the exemption authority to abandon effective on January 13, 2006. Within that same decision, the STB stated that the abandonment was to be consummated as of December 14, 2006.

By decision served on January 11, 2006, the proceeding was reopened and a 180-day period was authorized for the City of Lewistown, MT (Lewistown), to negotiate an interim trail use/railbanking agreement with BNSF for the right-of-way.

By decision served July 11, 2006, the Board granted Lewistown's request to extend the NITU negotiating period until January 8, 2007.

On December 13, 2006, BNSF filed a letter with the STB requesting an extension of the abandonment consummation deadline until June 14, 2007.

This letter is to advise the Board that BNSF is railbanking the subject Line from milepost 13.88 to milepost 28.35, including the 1.30-mile Berg Lumber Spur (milepost 0.00 – milepost 1.30), and the Heath Spur (milepost 0.00 – milepost 1.10). BNSF will address the remainder of the Line and the pending historical condition in a separate letter.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, J.

SLS/eew

cc: Jake DeBoever

John Sims